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RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1954.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 16,760. The excess of births over deaths during 1954 was 140 and the rate of natural increase is thus 8.4 per 1000 population. There were 299 (155 male and 144 female) live births which give a rate per 1000 population of 18.9 when corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.8 and that for England and Wales 15.2 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 159 deaths (94 male and 65 female) after correction for comparability was 10.0 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.3 and 10.4 per 1000 population.

The infant death rate (under one year of age) was 20.1 per 1000 live births, based on 299 such births and 6 infant deaths. The mean number of live births and infant deaths during the period 1945-1954 gives an average infant death rate of 32.3 per 1000 live births based on a mean of 297.4 live births and 9.6 infant deaths for the ten-year period. The infant death rates for England and Wales and for the administrative county were respectively during 1954, 25.5 and 24.9 per 1000 live births.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths were 6 in number, which represents the total infant deaths under one year old. Three died from pneumonia, one from prematurity and pneumonia, one from congenital defects, and one from haemolytic disease of the new-born,

The death rate in infants under 4 weeks old (neonatal mortality) during 1954 in the Rural District thus corresponds with the infant death rate under one year which is 20.1 per 1000 live births. The neonatal mortality rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 17.7 per 1000 births.

Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population for tuberculosis (0.12 per 1000) cancer (1.5 per 1000) and pneumonia (0.8 per 1000). The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases (expressed as a proportion of the total deaths) during the year were : diseases of the heart and circulation other than coronary disease, 27.6 per cent, vascular lesions of nervous system 13.2 per cent, cancer 15.7 per cent, coronary disease 8.8 per cent, influenza, pneumonia, and bronchitis 13.2 per cent, and tuberculosis 1.3 per cent.

The number of deaths at ages 65 years and over was 98, of which 42 occurred between the ages of 65 and 74 years, and 56 at 75 years and over.

The *incidence rate* per 1000 population for the following notifiable diseases in the Rural District during 1954 were whooping cough 2.0, scarlet fever 1.2, and measles 0.8.

Notifications of infective diseases totalled 94 for the District during 1954.

Tuberculosis notifications which are included above numbered 16 during 1954 ; 15 were for the respiratory form of the disease.

407 children under 15 years of age were immunized during the year in the Rural District, 280 of whom were primarily inoculated ; 111 of the latter number were under one year of age.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

*I have the honour to be,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

RODERICK MACKAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1955.

## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	T. F. HARDING, M.S.I.A. (Cert. San. Inspector and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector)
Additional Sanitary Inspector	F. BOAM, M.S.I.A. (Cert. San Inspector and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector)
Rodent Operator	R. RAISEY

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts United Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and Marlborough M.B., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector, together with his assistant, carries out, within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the Public Health and Housing Committees of the District Council.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	75828
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	25
Population mid-1954 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....	Total	16760
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	4011
Number of new houses erected in 1954 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	23
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	60
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£105671
Sum represented by a Penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£430

## VITAL STATISTICS

					M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	....	....	155	144	299
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	156	137	288
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	4	7	11
Still Births	....	....	....	....	4	2	6
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	4	2	6
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	....	....	....	....			18.9

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.2
Number of deaths from all causes ....	94	65	159
Death Rate (corrected) ....			10.0
Death Rate for England Wales ....			11.3
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total ....	4	2	6
Legitimate ....	3	2	5
Illegitimate ....	1	—	1
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births			20.1
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			25.5

*NOTE :*

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1954 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

*BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,*

1954

	<i>Pewsey R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.) ....	18.9	15.8	15.2
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.) ....	10.0	10.4	11.3
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 live births) ....	20.1	24.9	25.5

# PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH, 1945-1954

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population .....	13440	13520	13780	14320	14310	*17850	*18950	*16470	*16330	*16760
Live Births .....	253	291	327	332	278	282	315	304	293	299
	18.8	21.5	23.7	23.2	19.4	15.8	16.6	18.5	17.9	17.8
Still Births .....	9	4	3	5	4	7	2	2	6	6
	34.3	13.6	9.1	14.8	14.2	30.9	6.3	6.5	20.0	19.7
Total Deaths .....	146	166	152	171	158	141	176	153	135	159
	10.9	12.3	11.0	11.9	11.0	7.9	9.3	9.3	8.3	9.5
Infant Deaths .....	10	21	17	6	7	5	6	6	12	6
	39.5	72.2	51.9	18.0	25.2	17.7	19.0	19.7	40.9	20.1
Tuberculosis Deaths .....	3	4	7	6	5	6	3	2	2	2
	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cancer Deaths .....	21	22	23	24	23	21	18	17	15	25
	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.5
Pneumonia Deaths .....	10	7	13	6	4	6	12	7	10	13
	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8

\*Includes armed forces as well as civilians.

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.



## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The number of infective diseases notified in the Rural District during 1954 was 94 including 16 notifications in respect of tuberculosis. Of this number measles accounted for 12, whooping cough 34, scarlet fever 20, dysentery 10, and one each of food poisoning and pneumonia. The season of greatest incidence of those diseases notified was January to March and again October to December, with a comparatively high incidence in May and June. The greatest numbers were notified in the age groups 2-3, 4-5, and 5-9 years.

The 10 cases of dysentery notified in the Rural District occurred during the periods May to June and November to December.

One case was notified from Pewsey Hospital in May, and one from Netheravon in June ; again two cases were notified from Pewsey Hospital in November, and six from Netheravon in December.

One notification of food poisoning was received from Collingbourne Kingston in the year.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

There were 16 notifications in respect of tuberculosis, one of which was non-respiratory.

There were two deaths from tuberculosis during the year in the Rural District, one from the non-respiratory and one from the lung forms of the disease.



# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1954

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping cough .....	7	3	12	-	-	2	-	-	2	5	3	-	34
Scarlet fever .....	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	2	20
Measles .....	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	12
Dysentery .....	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	6	10
Food Poisoning .....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis .....	2	1	1	-	2	2	2	1	1	-	2	1	15
Other forms of tuberculosis ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals .....	14	10	13	-	9	7	3	2	3	11	13	9	94

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1954

Disease	Total	Age (years)											Un- known
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Whooping cough .....	34	3	2	7	3	7	11	1	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet fever .....	20	-	-	1	1	-	15	3	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .....	12	-	1	3	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	10	1	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	1	-	-	2
Food Poisoning .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals .....	78	4	3	11	5	11	32	8	0	2	-	-	2

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The number of children under one year old immunized during 1954 in the Rural District was 111; there were 299 births during the year. In the age groups 1-4 years and 5-15 years respectively, 123 and 46 were immunized during 1954. The total number primarily immunized under 15 years of age was 280. The following numbers were inoculated against diphtheria during the last ten years.

Age Group (Years)	Year										Total
	1945	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	
Under 5	248	203	142	190	60	176	304	242	142	234	1941
5-15	20	19	20	142	29	42	34	43	22	46	417
Totals	268	222	162	332	89	218	338	285	164	280	2358

In addition 407 children were re-inoculated during the year, 390 in the 10-14 years age group.

The number of primary vaccinations performed against smallpox were 219, of which 177 were in respect of infants in the first year of life.

## HOUSING

Sixty additional houses were provided by the District Council during 1954, and twenty-three by private building.

It will be noted from the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector that of the 495 dwellings inspected during 1954 under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 85 dwellings were found to be in some respect not fit for habitation, and 53 to be unfit for habitation on the grounds that they were likely to be injurious to health or dangerous. Thus, 138 or about 28 per cent of the dwellings inspected proved to be in some respect unsatisfactory; but 31 of these were rendered fit as the result of representations.

It is gratifying to note that progress has been made in raising the standard of housing, and thus of living conditions, as the result of the improvements grant scheme in the case at least of the 53 dwellings dealt with in this way during 1954, and with the extended use of this and other improvement methods (such as slum clearance) the amenities of health in the form of good housing, adequate water supply, satisfactory waste disposal and the rest, can in time no doubt be brought within the reach of all.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The principal supplies at Pewsey from a chlorinated deep well, Ludgershall and Chute from Andover R.D., Collingbourne Ducis and Kingston from a borehole with an extended supply to Burbage also chlorinated, Wootton Rivers from a chlorinated deep well, and Everleigh from a War Department source may all be stated to be generally satisfactory in quality and quantity, although there is a need urgently to supplement the Pewsey supply and to provide adequate sources in the Easton Royal and Milton Lilbourne area.

The claims of the Avon valley are equally pressing more particularly in view of the special problem presented by pollution in shallow wells in this region.

The remaining sources of water supply in the Rural District, some sixteen in number as detailed in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, are generally less satisfactory than the half dozen mentioned above; they are in the main unchlorinated.

## **SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE**

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has noted in his report the need for improved drainage in certain parishes in the Rural District, and this has already been the subject of reports and has engaged the attention of the Council.

It is submitted that the open drains at Netheravon and Upavon and possibly also at Collingbourne Kingston should be piped or otherwise dealt with at an early opportunity to dovetail into any future sewerage and drainage scheme.

## **SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

Something short of a quarter of all inspections as detailed in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report can be classified under food supervision. A considerable number of these were in respect of slaughtered animals, and it is noteworthy in this connection for instance that the proportion of cows found infected with tuberculosis at slaughter is 10 per cent, about half what it was a year ago (19 per cent) and even lower than the 1938 figure of 12 per cent.

Although no bowel infection occurred in the population at large attributable to contaminated food, and thus far food hygiene may on the face of it have been satisfactory during the year, there is still too much indifference on the part of consumer and purveyor alike in the matter of the hygienic handling of foodstuffs.

Mention is made by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his report, of the departmental measures (including talks as well as routine inspection) taken to bring home to the public the need for clean food, and the ease with which foodstuff can be infected, and the simple measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of infection in this way.

Early in the year a comprehensive milk sampling scheme was introduced with not only statutory but also bacteriological laboratory

investigation as a routine. At present, however, laboratory milk investigation is confined to monthly statutory tests, and bacteriological tests only when specifically required—but not as a routine—and to quarterly biological tests for bovine tuberculosis.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1954

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	—	I	I
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	—	I	I
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	....	I	—	I
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	I	—	I
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	....	4	2	6
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	....	....	....	4	I	5
12	„ „ breast	....	....	....	—	—	—
13	„ „ uterus	....	....	....	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	....	10	3	13
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	I	—	I
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	I	—	I
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	10	11	21
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....	....	7	7	14
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	I	5	6
20	Other heart disease	....	....	....	10	16	26
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	7	5	12
22	Influenza	....	....	....	I	—	I
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	10	3	13
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	6	I	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	I	I	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	3	—	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	....	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	I	—	I
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	....	....	....	2	—	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	5	6	11
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	3	—	3
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	2	2	4
35	Suicide	....	....	....	I	—	I
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	—	—	—
Total all causes					94	65	159

# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PEWSEY

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

# 1954

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The year has seen a number of changes in the scope and direction of the Department's work. For instance, with the de-control of meat supplies meat inspection no longer makes the severe demands on the Department that it has in previous years. There has, however, been a considerable increase in the Department's work in other directions. A very much greater number of milk and water samples were taken during 1954 than in previous years, and it is proposed to increase this important aspect of the Department's activities.

A great deal of work has been done to secure the improvement of sub-standard dwellings and we can look forward to an expansion of the Council's activities in the field of Slum Clearance.

In conclusion I should like to thank all Members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their co-operation and assistance during the past year.

*I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

T. F. HARDING,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



## TABLE OF INSPECTION AND VISITS

	1953	1954
Water Supply ....	77	146
Drainage ....	282	304
Moveable Dwellings ....	21	37
Factories ....	15	11
Bakehouses ....	16	14
Pest Control ....	324	90
Building Inspection ....	—	110
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ....	105	35
Visits under Public Health Act, 1936 ....	150	109
Visits under Housing Acts, 1936 to 1954 ....	88	270
Overcrowding and Allocation of Houses ....	325	462
Verminous Premises ....	47	63
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ....	69	155
Housing Survey ....	152	139
Infectious Diseases ....	109	52
Slaughterhouse Visits....	287	153
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc. ....	9	23
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers ....	31	97
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises ....	2	38
Visits to Food Preparing Premises Generally ....	55	92
Visits to Licensed Houses ....	22	8
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds ....	15	87
Milk Sampling Visits ....	25	89
Miscellaneous Food Visits ....	3	7
Total Visits ....	2229	2591

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1954

1. *Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.*
  - (a) By Local Authority .... 60
  - (b) Conversion of 1 Council House into two flats... 2
  - (c) Private Enterprise .... 23
2. *Inspection of Dwellings during the year.*
  - (i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts 92
  - (ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts .... 403
  - (iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 53
  - (iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation .... 85
3. *Remedy of defects by Informal Action.*
  - Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action .... 24



4.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts).</i>			
(A)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936.			
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied....			—
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	....	....	—
(a)	By Owners	....	....	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	....		—
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts			
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	....	....	12
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	....	....	7
(a)	By Owners	....	....	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	....		—
(C)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Acts, 1936.			
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	....		—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	....	....	8
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted	....		4
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed	....		1
	Number of closing orders made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953	....	....	2
(D)	Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act, 1936.			
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	—
(E)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936.			
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	....	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit	....	....	—
5.	<i>Housing Acts, 1936—Part iv. Overcrowding.</i>			
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	....	....	22
(ii)	Number of cases discovered during year	....		15
(iii)	Number of cases abated during year	....		15

## HOUSING

Of all the many aspects of Public Health work, adequate Housing is perhaps the most important, and the year 1954 has seen an increased

proportion of the Department's time devoted to it. During the year, with the coming into effect of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954, the emphasis shifted from the erection of new houses to make up the wartime leeway, towards the improvement of existing privately owned dwellings and the demolition of slum property. Regarding improvements, the Department is responsible for the technical administration of Improvement Grants made by the Council, and during the year grants were made in respect of 53 dwellings. The improvement works in respect of 22 dwellings were completed during the year. It should be emphasized that the completed improved dwellings comply in every respect with modern standards in that they have piped water, both hot and cold, baths, W.C.s, larders, and are properly lit and ventilated. There can be no doubt that the improvement grant procedure is materially raising housing standards throughout the District.

As regards Slum Clearance, the Department has for some time been engaged on a survey of the unfit houses in the District. The survey is being continued in order that the Council can formulate their Slum Clearance policy within the time limit laid down by the Act.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

It is important that regular sampling of water supplies should be carried out in order to maintain a check on the purity of the water. This is especially important if the supply is not safeguarded by chlorination.

During 1954, the aim was to take samples at quarterly intervals from supplies where the Council is either the water undertaker or purchases the water from some other body, and more frequently where sampling proved the water to be substandard in purity.

As a result a total of 95 samples were taken from these supplies during the year, an increase of 50 over the figures for 1953.

During the year the process of bringing piped supplies through the district continued, albeit slowly, with the connection of Burbage to the Collingbourne main supply. It is to be hoped that 1955 will see continued and accelerated progress in this sphere, especially in regard to the mains extension from Burbage through Easton Royal and Milton Lilbourne to Pewsey.

This extension is badly needed, not only to augment Pewsey's failing supply, but also to get rid of a number of highly unsatisfactory wells: The inhabitants of the hamlet of New Mill, for instance, rely on a spring which is grossly polluted at all times, and the new extension will provide a badly needed alternative supply.

The projected Avon Valley Scheme is also urgently needed in view of the almost invariably polluted condition of wells in the vicinity of the river.

Details of the water services to individual parishes and the results of samples taken are given below :—

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

### PEWSEY

The water is obtained from a deep well and is chlorinated : it is alkaline, with a PH value of 7.2 and a total hardness of 21.8. 95% of the houses in the parish are connected to the supply and an estimated 1% of these rely on standpipes.

3 bacteriological samples and 1 chemical were taken : all were satisfactory.

### LUDGERSHALL

The water is purchased in bulk from the Andover R.D.C. and is chlorinated : it is alkaline, with a ph value of 7.4, and a total hardness of 23.6. It is estimated that 95% of the houses in the parish obtain water from this source, and of these 1% rely on standpipes.

1 chemical sample was taken and proved satisfactory and 5 bacteriological samples, of which 4 showed minimal non-faecal contamination, the other being satisfactory.

### CHUTE

The supply for this parish is derived from the same source as that for Ludgershall, and its chemical character is similar.

With the exception of some isolated cottages all the houses in the parish are served by the main.

1 chemical sample taken, which was satisfactory, and 1 bacteriological which shewed minimal non-faecal pollution.

### COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS AND KINGSTON

The water is obtained from a borehole and is chlorinated. It is alkaline, with a PH value of 7.3. The total hardness is 24.4.

It is estimated that 90% of the houses are now connected to the supply...

Samples taken were as follows :—

Chemical 2 — both satisfactory.

Bacteriological 10 — 8 satisfactory.

2 Bacteriological samples shewed severe pollution, and as a result the chlorination rate was increased, later samples being satisfactory.

### WOOTTON RIVERS

The water is obtained from a deep well : it is alkaline (ph. 7.2), and has a total hardness of 24.6. 46 houses of a total of 58 are supplied from the main, some relying on standpipes.

For a long period this supply has given cause for anxiety, and as a result of a sequence of bad samples, the Council installed a chlorinator. Since then, all samples have been satisfactory as to purity.

15 bacteriological samples were taken during the year : 14 were taken before the chlorinator was installed and were unsatisfactory.

1 Chemical sample was satisfactory.

## *BURBAGE*

During the year the Collingbourne water scheme was extended to serve the parish of Burbage, the water being derived from the borehole at Collingbourne.

At the end of the year the main-lying and work of making connections to the mains was not fully completed, and it is not therefore possible to estimate the number of houses served by the new mains.

3 samples were taken from the new main and all were unsatisfactory: they coincided with a similar sequence of bad samples taken at Collingbourne and were put right by adjustment of the chlorinator.

## *EVERLEIGH*

This main water is obtained from the War Department, and the greater part of the village is served by it.

3 bacteriological samples were taken during the year and all of them were satisfactory.

## **OTHER WATER SUPPLIES**

### *ENFORD*

All the War Department property and the Council Estate is supplied from a W.D. main, the supply being derived from a well and not normally chlorinated.

10 bacteriological samples were taken during the year of which 6 proved unsatisfactory. As a result of representations made to the War Department, the supply was chlorinated, and subsequent samples have been satisfactory.

### *FITTLETON AND NETHERAVON*

This is a War Department Supply to War Department property and to the Council Houses. It is not chlorinated.

4 bacteriological samples were taken, the results being generally satisfactory.

### *NORTH TIDWORTH*

War Department main supply to the majority of houses in the parish, including the Council Estate. The supply is chlorinated, and the water is alkaline (ph. 7.4) with a total hardness of 19.4.

3 bacteriological and 1 chemical samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

### *ALTON BARNES*

Part of the village and the Council Estate is supplied by a private estate piped supply. The water is not chlorinated. 3 bacteriological samples were taken, all of them being satisfactory.

### *ALTON PRIORS*

Part of this village is served from the same piped supply as Alton Barnes. The Council Houses, however, rely on a communal well.



3 bacteriological samples were taken from this source during the year, and all shewed evidence of pollution. As a result, arrangements are in hand to provide a supply from the estate services.

#### *EASTON ROYAL*

Part of the parish and the new Council Houses obtain piped water from a private source. The water is not chlorinated.

4 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, and results were not entirely satisfactory.

#### *MILTON LILBOURNE*

Part of the parish is served by a Private Mains Supply which is unchlorinated. The Post-War Council Estate derives its water from a borehole, also unchlorinated.

3 bacteriological samples were taken all being satisfactory.

#### *BOTTLESFORD*

The Post-War Council Houses are supplied with unchlorinated water from a borehole.

4 bacteriological samples—all being satisfactory.

#### *OARE*

Unchlorinated water from a borehole supplies the Council Houses : 2 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, both being satisfactory.

Water from a communal well serving a group of houses was found to be grossly polluted, and in the absence of an alternative supply, the users were advised to boil the water.

#### *UPAVON*

A few houses in this parish are connected to a private piped supply, the remainder relying upon wells. The Council Houses are supplied with unchlorinated water from a borehole, the results of 3 bacteriological samples being satisfactory.

#### *WILCOT*

There is private piped supply serving a small number of houses in the village.

The Post-War Council Houses are provided with water from a borehole. As a result of severe pollution of the communal well serving the pre-war Council Houses, they were connected to the services from this borehole. The water is not chlorinated.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year of which 5 were generally satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory.

#### *WOODBOROUGH*

All the houses in the parish are served by private wells with the exception of the Post-War Council Houses, which are supplied with unchlorinated water from a borehole. 3 bacteriological samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

## *WILSFORD*

There is a private piped supply serving 90% of this parish.

## *CHARLTON*

There is a private piped supply serving 90% of this parish.

## *RUSHALL*

A similar private supply serves probably 50% of this parish.

## **DRAINAGE**

During the year the Council laid a sewer through the village of East Everleigh. The sewer discharges into the War Department owned disposal works.

Connections to the sewer were still being made at the end of the year.

Apart from this, no major works of sewerage have been undertaken.

The great majority of houses outside the sewered parishes rely on bucket closets, but there has been an increasing tendency to install septic tank drainage systems; particularly in connected with houses that are being improved under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1949 and 1954.

The open drainage ditches in the parishes of Collingbourne Kingston, Charlton and especially Upavon and Netheravon, continue to give cause for some concern. These ditches take both surface water and sink wastes and are at all times insanitary, and the cause of a great deal of wholly justified complaints from persons living nearby. Little can be done to ameliorate the nuisance short of a radical reconstruction of the drains, and it is to be hoped that an increase in the rate of installation of rural water and sewerage schemes will render their abolition possible in the near future.

## **FOOD INSPECTION**

### *MEAT*

1954 saw the end of Government Control of meat supplies, and a reversion by the trade to pre-war methods of purchasing and marketing. In consequence, the Government surrendered their lease of the slaughterhouse in Pewsey, and the intensive slaughtering which had taken place there during and since the war, ceased. From a Public Health point of view, this was a good thing, since the premises had been consistently overloaded to the point where hygienic handling of meat was bound to take second place to output.

At decontrol, the licensing of private slaughterhouses became the responsibility of Local Authorities, and the Council very wisely insisted that all such premises in their area should conform to a high standard of hygiene in regard to construction, and equipment.

As a result, and no doubt also because of the opening of new large Factory Slaughtehrhouses at Swindon and Salisbury, the owners of

several private slaughterhouses which had operated in the pre-war period decided not to re-open them, and there is at present only one licensed slaughterhouse in the district, in which very little slaughtering has taken place recently, and one licensed knacker yard.

The numbers of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year, before and after decontrol, are as follows :—



**MEAT INSPECTION**—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
(Note: All figures for 1954 relate to the period prior to the de-control of slaughtering).

	Cattle excluding Cows				Cows		Calves		Sheep		Pigs	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
Number killed	457	164	180	49	643	285	2524	1158	288	479		
Number inspected	457	164	180	49	643	285	2524	1158	288	479		
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcase Condenned	5	1	1	—	—	4	3	9	3	6		
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Part or Organ Condenned	116	12	65	3	4	—	74	13	44	10		
% of Number Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.47	7.92	36.66	6.12	0.62	1.40	3.13	1.89	16.31	3.34		
Tuberculosis only whole carcase condenned	3	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
Tuberculosis only. Carcases of which some part or organ condenned	32	7	32	5	—	—	—	—	8	1		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.65	5.48	19.44	10.20	.15	—	—	—	3.12	0.20		

**MEAT INSPECTION—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (1954—Since Decontrol)**

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed					
Number Inspected	1	—	10	14	20
All Diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcase condemned	1	—	10	14	20
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Part or Organ condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis only whole Carcase condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only Part or Organ condemned	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—

Note : (Since percentages would be unrealistic in relation to the small numbers of animals killed, they are not quoted).

## FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY

The numbers and types of food trades in the district are shown in the following table :—

Butchers	....	....	....	....	9
Bakers	....	....	....	....	13
Grocers	....	....	....	....	30
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	5
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	3
Cafes	....	....	....	....	14
Fishfryers....	....	....	....	....	4
Food Factories	....	....	....	....	3
Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	44
General Stores	....	....	....	....	17
Registered Dairies	....	....	....	....	6
Registered Distributors	....	....	....	....	8

<i>Registered Premises (Food and Drugs Act, 1938)</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>14.</i>
For the storage and sale of ice-cream (prepacked)	....	44
For the Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	....	1
For Fishfrying....	....	4
For Sausage Manufacturing	....	5

Whilst there were no outbreaks of food poisoning attributable to bad food hygiene, this is no cause for complacency among the food handlers responsible, for whilst it could be said that the general standard was reasonable, by and large, it was not entirely good enough. It must be appreciated that in a scattered rural area without piped water supplies and sewerage it is difficult to provide constant hot water and proper hand washing facilities ; but such facilities can be adequately extemporised, and it is important to ensure that food handlers appreciate why it is essential that such facilities should exist, however extempore, and why they should be used, together with the observance of the other rules of good food handling.

To achieve this object letters were sent to all food traders in the district emphasising these points, and the Department embarked upon a programme of illustrated lectures to Womens' Organisations, food handlers, and other interested persons.

These lectures were very well attended and received, and it is proposed to undertake a more ambitious programme during 1955.

## MILK

As a result of cases of bovine Tuberculosis occurring among children in an adjoining District, a programme of regular milk sampling was undertaken ; such samples were tested for the tubercle bacillus and other pathogens, and were also subjected to tests for cleanliness and, in the case of Pasteurised Milks, for adequate heat treatment.

Results of sampling are as follows :—

Samples taken	....	....	....	....	....	81
Samples satisfying Methylene Blue or Phosphatase Tests	....	....	....	....	....	62
Samples subjected to Biological Examination	....	....	....	....	....	45
Samples showing Positive T.B. reaction	..	..	..	..	..	NIL

### RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Rodent Control service continued to expand during the year, as is shown by the following figures, relating to premises of all kinds that were treated in the years 1951-1954 :—

1951—126

1952—170

1953—261

1954—317

In addition, routine work carried out included the test baiting of the Ludgershall and Pewsey sewer systems—both being found to be free of rats, and regular treatment of the various sewage works and the refuse tip.

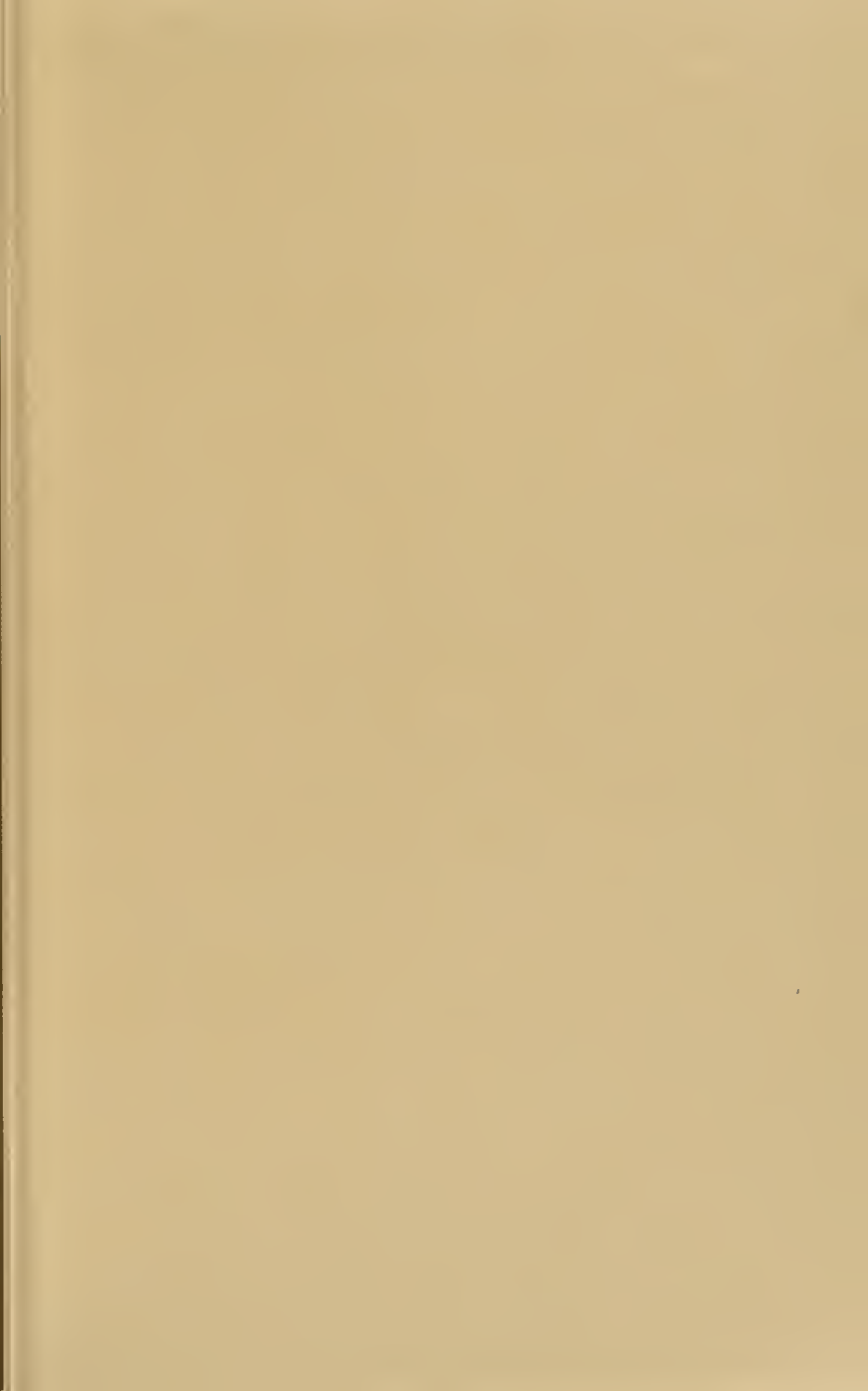
Various premises were treated to rid them of insect pests, especially cockroaches and fleas.

### FACTORIES

Number of Factories without mechanical power—18.

Number of Factories with mechanical power—34.

11 visits of inspection were made to factories and any defects found were dealt with informally.



*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,  
Marlborough.*